

Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd)

(Director, USI from Jul 1996 to Dec 2008)

Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar was commissioned into the 20th Battalion of the MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY on 15 Dec 1957. He served with distinction in both the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars and commanded two battalions of the Regiment. A graduate of the Australian Staff College, he held several key appointments in the Indian Army, including in the General Staff Branch at Divisional Headquarters, as Additional Director General, and later as Director General of Military Operations at Army Headquarters.

He had the distinction of raising and commanding the Indian Army's first mechanised brigade group, and subsequently commanded a mechanised division. From Jul 1977 to Jan 1979, he served as a member of the Indian Army Training Team in Iraq. He was also a faculty member at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and served as the Military Adviser at the High Commission of India in London from Dec 1983 to Nov 1987.

In a landmark international assignment, General Nambiar was appointed as the first Force Commander and Head of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia. He was responsible for establishing and commanding the mission from Mar 1992 to Mar 1993. He superannuated as the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff on 31 Aug 1994.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to national security, the Government of India conferred upon him the Padma Bhushan on 26 January 2009.

He assumed charge as the Director of the United Service Institution of India on 01 July 1996 and held the position until 31 Dec 2008. During his tenure, he was appointed Adviser to the Government of Sri Lanka on its peace process from 2002 to 2003. He was also nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to a 16-member High-Level Panel tasked with studying global security threats and recommending strategies for effective collective action. Additionally, he served on the International Advisory Council of the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sandoverken, Sweden.